

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 CU-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661

USDEL JEC PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 752

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0212

LIMDIS

PARIS FOR USDEL UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, PORG, VS, VN, UNESCO

SUBJECT: GVN APPEAL TO UNESCO RE CAO DAI HOLY SEE

1. GVN HAS SENT APPEAL TO UNESCO FOR ASSISTANCE IN SAVING CAO DAI HOLY SEE IN TAY NINH PROVINCE FROM INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING ATTACKS BY COMMUNISTS. WE URGE USDEL UNESCO TO GIVE ALL APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO THIS APPEAL. TEXT OF MFA MESSAGE OF DEC 28 TRANSMITTING APPEAL TO GVN EMBASSY PARIS FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: PLEASE REQUEST OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO: "MR DIRECTOR GENERAL, IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, I HAVE THE HONOR TO DRAW YOUR PARTICULAR ATTENTION AND THAT OF UNESCO TO THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

3. CONTINUING THEIR POLICY OF TERROR AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM, COMMUNIST TROOPS HAVE RECENTLY INTENSIFIED ARTILLERY SHELLING INDISCRIMINATELY IN THE CAPITAL OF TAY NINH PROVINCE IN WHICH THE HOLY SEE OF CAO DAISM IS
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SITUATED. ON DECEMBER 26, 1974, AT 4:10 PM THEY LAUNCHED TWO

122M/M ROCKETS IN THAT LOCALITY, WOUNDING TWO INHABITANTS AND DESTROYING FIVE HOUSES. ON DECEMBER 27, 1974, AT 4:20 PM THEY AGAIN FIRED THREE TIMES, CAUSING THREE DEATHS, THREE WOUNDED AND DESTROYING FIVE ADDITIONAL HOUSES. IN THE SPACE OF TWENTY DAYS, FROM THE 8TH TO THE 27TH OF DECEMBER 1974, A TOTAL OF 56 SHELLS OF ALL TYPES WERE FIRED INTO THE CAPITAL OF TAY NINH CAUSING TEN DEATHS, TWENTY FIVE WOUNDED AND DESTROYING TWENTY ONE HOUSES. THESE ACTS CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS MENACE FOR THE HOLY SEE OF CAO DAISM WHICH IS CONSIDERED BY ALL VIETNAMESE AS A RELIGIOUS HERCTAGE OF GREAT ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL VALUE. IF SUCH ACTS ARE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE WITH IMPUNITY THE HOLY SEE OF CAO DAISM WILL BE EXPOSED TO GRAVE RISH OF IRREPARABLE DESTRUCTION. IN THE FACE OF THE EXCEPTIONAL SERIOUSNESS OF SUCH A DANGER, WHICH WEIGHS MORE EACH DAY ON THE FATE OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM EARNESTLY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND ON UNESCO TO ALERT WORLD OPINION AND TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO CONSTRAIN THE HANOI ADMINISTRATION AND ITS AUZILIARIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THE SO-CALLED "PRG", TO PUT AN END IMMEDIATELY TO SUCH DELIBERATE ACTS OF VANDALISM IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS CULTURAL HERITAGES OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. WITH HIGH CONSIDERATION. NGO KHAC TINH, MINISTER OF CULTURE, EDUCATION AND YOUTH, ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. END TEXT.
MARTIN

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